



FIRST THINGS FIRST



Tribal Notes E-Bulletin

July 11, 2011

FTF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (FTF news related to tribes and tribal communities)

Kids Learn Through Play at First Things First Family Fun Day

WINDOW ROCK – Local kids and their families found out that learning together can be fun at the 2nd Annual First Things First Family Fun Day, held June 25 in Tuba City.



Children splashed at the water tables, built cities out of blocks, and used their creativity to finger paint masterpieces, while their parents learned about early child development and resources to help them in their communities. Many activities were available for

children to help stimulate their intellectual, physical, and social development, including family interaction. “It was great to see everyone get involved,” said Larita Stevens, a First Things First staff member in the Navajo Nation. Stevens noticed families having a great time while doing simple activities, such as playing a memory game. At one point, a grandma showed she was young at heart by participating in a modified obstacle course with her grandchild. The day was not only fun; it was a learning experience for most. More than 95% of attendees said they learned something new about early childhood development. With multiple community resources available at the event, many families walked away with tools they need to prepare their kids for success in school and beyond.

The First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council sponsors the Family Fun Day every summer. Melissa Begay, Navajo Nation Regional Director, stressed the importance of the event because, “it’s an opportunity to provide the best child development and parenting information.” By sponsoring and participating in Family Fun Day, “we strengthen our children, families and communities through education and developmental awareness,” Begay added.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help more children start kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. Research has shown that 80% of a child’s brain development happens by age 3, and a child’s early experiences lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Because of this, the job of helping children succeed in school starts the day they’re born. Congratulations to the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council and staff for a job well done.

2011 NAEYC Conference

First Things First will provide information on our partnerships with Arizona Tribes at the 2011 NAEYC Annual Conference, November 2-5 in Orlando, FL. Our presentation on FTF Tribal Affairs has been accepted to be part of the NAEYC Learning Galleria where we can interact one-on-one with Annual Conference attendees.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST (local and national information/articles relating to early childhood development in tribal communities)

Kellogg Foundation Pursues College Access Agenda

by Jamaal Abdul-Alim , June 30, 2011

Diverse Education-- <http://diverseeducation.com/article/15969/>



Richard B. Williams is president of the American Indian College Fund.

When the W.K. Kellogg Foundation first approached a group of tribal college presidents in 1994 with a \$23 million grant for a handful of their institutions, the tribal college leaders didn’t exactly trip over themselves to get the money. “They basically [said], ‘That’s not how we want to do it,’” recalls Valorie Johnson, a longtime Kellogg program officer who approached the tribal college leaders with the grant offer. “If there’s \$10,” she says the tribal college leaders told her at the time, “we want it to be split among all of us.” When then-Kellogg Foundation CEO Russ Mawby asked Johnson if the tribal college leaders were excited about the grant, she told him

they were but that “there were a couple of things they wanted to change.” “I thought [Mawby] was going to be upset, but he was quite the opposite,” Johnson says. So much so that, instead of going forward with the initial plan, the foundation honored the tribal college leaders’ wish. They distributed the money among several tribal institutions, many of which were in a state of disrepair at the time. Nearly two decades after that decision, the Native American Higher Education Initiative is still reaping benefits. Those familiar with the grant’s impact say the schools have seen improved campus infrastructure, increased student enrollment and a greater ability to leverage other funds. “This gift from Kellogg really created a whole different level of credibility for the institutions and raised their status in the eyes of higher education in America,” says Richard B. Williams, president of the American Indian College Fund.

While now defunct, NAHEI’s success also served to solidify the relationship between the Kellogg Foundation and tribal colleges. For instance, as recently as April 5, the Foundation gave the American Indian College Fund \$5 million to establish four early childhood development centers at tribal colleges. The program, titled Wakanyeya “Sacred Little Ones” Early Childhood Development Initiative, will span a five-year period and is intended to, among other things, prepare Native children for postsecondary success. While the gift represents a prime example of the Kellogg Foundation’s ongoing commitment to American Indian higher education, it also mirrors a shift toward more forward-thinking philanthropy. A growing body of research suggests that the best time to prepare students for college is during early childhood. “The college access focus is as strong as ever, even as we lift up our focus on early childhood education,” says Gregory Taylor, the foundation’s vice president of program strategy. “If you enter your education career unprepared, that means you’ve lost before you started.” The foundation’s support of tribal colleges is just one of several efforts that the foundation has made over the past few decades to assist and elevate minority-serving institutions. Another of the foundation’s diversity-related efforts is the ENLACE initiative for Hispanic-serving institutions. The initiative began in 1997 and involves 13 partnerships in seven states, mostly in the Southwest, California and Florida. There also are ENLACE sites in Chicago and the Bronx. The foundation says it has invested more than \$35 million in ENLACE, which stands for ENgaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE).

“The foundation has had a pretty long history of support for young people, and the founder of the foundation—W.K. Kellogg—suggested that education was the process by which we improved one generation over another,” says John C. Burkhardt, a former foundation program officer who now serves as a professor of higher and postsecondary education at the University of Michigan. “That strong commitment has never wavered. Education continues to be one of the most important commitments that the foundation has honored.”

The history of the Kellogg Foundation and its support of education are vast and varied. But there is no way to separate the foundation from the fearless Depression-era business decisions of its founder. W.K. Kellogg’s business strategies helped catapult his company to success even during the height of the Depression. It was around the same time, in 1930, that Kellogg formed his foundation with the simple declaration, “I’ll invest my money in people.” That philosophy has governed the foundation’s work. A review of tax returns for the Kellogg Foundation, which had net assets of \$147.3 million at the end of fiscal 2009, reveals significant investments in

organizations that work to improve outcomes for diverse groups in higher education. For instance, the foundation awarded a \$400,000 grant to the National Consortium for College Completion to increase college completion rates among low-income students. Among the foundation's more well-known beneficiaries is Geoffrey Canada's Harlem Children's Zone. Canada received a \$250,000 grant from the Foundation in 2009 to support the organization's educational, social and health programs for low-income youth. The Kellogg Foundation also has been a major investor in various higher education institutions and efforts in its home state of Michigan. For instance, Legacy Scholars, a Battle Creek-based organization whose mission is to provide educational, social and financial support to students from the Battle Creek Public and Lakeview School districts, got a grant of \$390,980 from the foundation in fiscal 2009. Taylor says such investments signify the foundation's growing emphasis on making sure that those from what he termed "vulnerable backgrounds" are prepared for college. The purpose, he says, is focused and simple: "So that you graduate and complete high school with a viable opportunity around college."

First Lady Remembers Native Youth

By Rob Capriccioso June 6, 2011

Indian Country Today: <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/06/first-lady-remembers-native-youth/>



First Lady Michelle Obama shows two youth participants seeds they are going to plant in the Three Sisters Garden at the White House. (Photo courtesy of Flickr/indianaffairs_opa)

WASHINGTON – When First Lady Michelle Obama rolled out her much heralded “Let’s Move” campaign for getting kids fit in February 2010, some Indian health officials felt she didn’t focus

enough on the needs of Indian kids, especially given their sobering health statistics. Now, she seems to have heeded the call, offering a new emphasis on doing better and improving the outcomes for the Indian youth population. At a White House South Lawn ceremony held June 3, Mrs. Obama joined several Native American children in planting a traditional Indian garden, while also talking about ways to be healthy. The event was part of a new push by Mrs. Obama called “Let’s Move in Indian Country” (LMIC), which she said will specifically work with young kids in the Native American community all across the country.

“We’re going to try to make sure that all you kids grow up healthy, knowing what to eat, knowing how to exercise,” Mrs. Obama told the children. “It’s a whole initiative to work with people all across the country to think about how we eat and how we move our bodies so that you guys grow up healthy and strong and able to do well in school and be successful in life. That’s what the whole ‘Let’s Move’ effort is about.”

Obama said the planting was a special way to highlight her overall “Let’s Move” initiative, which focuses on all American children. The program is meant to promote better coordination among federal agencies and the non-profit and for-profit sectors to improve nutrition and increase activity among youth. The goal is to end the obesity epidemic “within a generation,” according to a memo signed by President Barack Obama in 2010. Mrs. Obama added at the event that it was the first time that a Three Sisters form of planting (combining squash, corn and beans) was being done in the White House Kitchen Garden. She also shared stories with the children about harvesting lettuce and rhubarb from the White House garden for the president’s family to eat. “You see those big huge leaves?” Mrs. Obama asked the children. “That’s rhubarb. And it’s huge! It’s like an elephant’s ear.”

Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians, was on hand for the event, and explained the Three Sisters form of planting. “Supporting and reinvigorating our traditional ways of healthy living and eating is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen our Native American communities,” Keel said in a press release issued after the event. “What the First Lady is doing is incredible. ‘Let’s Move in Indian Country’ is reaching a generation of tribal youth and connecting them with a healthy, traditional path in life. As tribal leaders we are very supportive and grateful for her efforts.”

Keel also remarked on the importance of healthy lifestyles for Native youth and performed a blessing for the event. Mrs. Obama and the children later harvested some vegetables from the garden.

The renewed White House attention to the health of Native kids was widely welcomed in Indian country. According to federal data, the obesity rate among American Indian and Alaska Native youth is approaching 50 percent, which is twice as high as their white counterparts; and twenty percent of American Indians ages 15 years or older had pre-diabetes in 2001–2004. In addition, American Indian/Alaska Native adults are nearly two times as likely to be obese as their white counterparts, and American Indian/Alaska Native adults are more than twice as likely as white adults to be diagnosed with diabetes. A study issued in 2009 based on data gathered by the National Center for Education Statistics found that that Native American 4-year-olds were twice as likely to be obese as non-Hispanic white or Asian children in the United States. It also

indicated that American Indian preschoolers were more overweight than youth in other racial groups.

The American Indian and Alaska Native children who took part in the event hailed from a variety of tribal nations including Jemez Pueblo, Skokomish, Cherokee, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Navajo, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, St. Regis Mohawk, Tlingit, Oglala Sioux, Standing Rock Sioux, and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. “We harvested some crops for the First Lady and planted some squash, beans, and corn,” youth Jayce Archambault of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe said in a Department of the Interior press release issued after the event. “It was a real fun experience; to get outside and be active and plant these things to help people get healthy is something we will remember.”

Mrs. Obama was also joined by leaders in the Indian community, including Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk, Indian Health Service Director Yvette Roubideaux, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service Director Dennis Concannon, Bureau of Indian Education Director Keith Moore, National Museum of the American Indian Director Kevin Gover, NFL quarterback Sam Bradford, and basketball player Tahnee Robinson. After the event, Echo Hawk released the following statement: “I am always very pleased when history acknowledges the wonderful achievements of our nation’s first Americans. The agricultural contributions of the ancestors to contemporary American Indian and Alaska Natives are significant, and today’s event is a great testament to their lasting legacy.” The Interior Department explained in a press release that corn, beans, and squash, when planted together, are referred to as the Three Sisters, a way of planting that stems from tribal stories that weave the three agricultural staples into traditional narratives. “This method is also known as companion planting,” according to the Interior release. “The science behind such planting techniques involves the mutually beneficial effects of their simultaneous growth. The corn provides a structure for the beans to climb, eliminating the need for poles. The beans provide the nitrogen to the soil that the other plants utilize and the squash spreads along the ground, blocking the sunlight, which helps prevent weeds. This method of planting and agriculture differs greatly from the more common methods of plowing. Interior officials said the First Lady’s Three Sisters planting acknowledges the contributions and skills of the nation’s first Americans.

The White House planting built on momentum Mrs. Obama achieved in May when she formally announced the “Let’s Move in Indian Country” initiative, which is aimed at supporting and advancing the work that tribal leaders and community members are already doing to improve the health of American Indian and Alaska Native children. The initiative launched at an event at the Menominee Indian reservation in Keshena, Wisconsin where Echo Hawk was joined by the Office of the First Lady Let’s Move! Initiative Executive Director Robin Schepper and other federal officials. “Through ‘Let’s Move in Indian Country’ we have an opportunity to engage Native communities, schools, tribes, the private sector, and non-profits to work together to tackle this issue head on,” Mrs. Obama said in a statement explaining the initiative. “Tribes can sign up to become part of *Let’s Move! in Indian Country*, elders can mentor children about traditional foods and the importance of physical activity, and families can incorporate healthy habits like eating vegetables or participating in the President’s Active Lifestyle Award into their everyday life.”

According to the Office of the First Lady, the initiative has four main goals: (1) create a healthy start on life for children, (2) create healthy learning communities, (3) ensure families access to healthy, affordable, traditional foods, and (4) increase opportunities for physical activity. To accomplish these goals, the White House plans the following endeavors, as written by the First Lady's office:

- Launch a new webpage and toolkit that includes step-by-step assistance, resources and information for schools, tribes and organizations on accessing federal programs and grants to combat childhood obesity/diabetes in Indian country at www.letsmove.gov/indiancountry.
- Certify all 14 federally run IHS obstetrics facilities as Baby Friendly Hospitals by 2012.
- Launch new on-line PSAs featuring Sam Bradford, quarterback for the St. Louis Rams, and Tahnee Robinson, the first female full-blood American Indian athlete to be drafted to the Women's National Basketball Association. Both are Nike N7 Athlete Ambassadors encouraging Native youth to lead healthy, active lives. Nike N7 is Nike, Inc.'s long-term commitment and comprehensive program to bring access to sports to Native American and Aboriginal communities. For more information, visit www.niken7.com and <http://www.doi.gov/letsmove/indiancountry/index.cfm>.
- Issue the 25,000-person Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) Challenge this summer in Indian Country. Six thousand Native youth have already completed the challenge and received a certificate from the President's Council on Fitness, Sport and Nutrition. To learn more about the Challenge, visit www.presidentschallenge.org/lmic.
- Announce a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), USDA's Food and Nutrition Services programs, the National Society of American Indian Elderly, Boys and Girls Clubs in Indian country, and Southwest Youth Services to place 200 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associations in Indian Country to support LMIC implementation, positive youth development, and healthy lifestyles in at least 15 states. In addition, CNCS, with support from the Nike N7 Fund, will place full-time, year-long AmeriCorps VISTA members with organizations promoting physical activity and sport on Native lands.
- Engage celebrity spokespersons in getting out the message.
- Encourage 363 "Just Move It" tribal partners to mobilize locally PALA walks, runs and other on-reservation family-oriented activities across Indian country.

UPCOMING EVENTS (meetings, events, conferences etc. related to tribal affairs)

- ❖ July 12, 2011: TTAG Live Meeting (1:00-2:00 pm)
- ❖ July 28, 2011: FTF Tribal Consultation on the Indicators
- ❖ July 14, 2011: TTAG Subcommittee Meeting-Regions with Tribes (11:00-12:00 pm)
- ❖ July 20, 2011: TTAG Subcommittee Meeting on Communications and Government Affairs (10:00-11:00 am)

- ❖ July 21, 2011: TTAG Subcommittee Meeting on Procurement (9:00-10:00 am)
- ❖ August 28, 2011: Pre-FTF Summit Tribal Gathering (12:00-5:00 pm)
- ❖ August 29-30, 2011: FTF Summit
- ❖ October 3-4, 2011: Arizona Indian Education Association American Indian Youth Conference

RESOURCES (opportunities for Tribal Regional Partnership Councils and regional staff)

The White House is pleased to announce the launch of “Winning the Future: President Obama and the Native American Community.”

This webpage is meant to serve as another tool to help Indian Country navigate the federal government and learn about how the President’s Agenda is helping to win the future for Native Americans. At a recent White House listening session, tribal leaders asked for a centralized list of offices within the federal government that were responsible for serving Indian Country and upholding the federal trust responsibility. Accordingly, the new White House webpage contains a Resources Tab designed to be a toolkit for tribal leaders that brings together over 25 different agencies and departments into one, navigable location. As the issues confronting Indian Country often exist across many different agencies, this resource is intended to help tribal leaders navigate the entire federal system. You can sign up for our email updates at this website.

New resource on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center

Head Start Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness Resource Catalogue. Volume Two: Native and Heritage Language Preservation, Revitalization, and Maintenance (First Edition) 2011. <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/docs/resource-catalogue-main-book-3.pdf>

ACF announces \$150 million in available funding for Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage Grants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance announced the availability of funding for four discretionary grant awards totaling \$150 million for Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grants. All of these opportunities include tribes and tribal entities as eligible applicants. These grants will go to help fathers meet their parenting and financial responsibilities to their children and assist married couples or those considering marriage in building strong relationships with each other and their children. The Responsible Fatherhood program has \$75 million in new funding intended to promote or sustain responsible parenting, marriage and economic stability. The Healthy Marriage program has \$75 million in new funding intended for pre-marital education; marriage enhancement programs; divorce reduction programs; marriage mentoring programs;

and skills programs that may include parenting skills, financial management, conflict resolution and job and career advancement.

The funding opportunity announcements made available include:

- **Community-Centered Healthy Marriage and Relationship grants** support programs that have the capacity and proven track record of providing a broad range of healthy marriage and relationship skills training.
- **Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood grants** support organizations that demonstrate the ability to successfully promote responsible fatherhood, including economic stability, responsible parenting, and healthy marriage and relationship skills.
- **Community-Centered Responsible Fatherhood Ex-Prisoner Re-Entry Pilot Project grants** support re-entry programs that provide Responsible Fatherhood pre- and post-release case management services to recently released or re-entering fathers and mothers.
- **National Resource Center for Strategies to Promote Healthy Marriage grants** support the development, implementation and management of a resource center to gather, develop, and disseminate information and research related to promoting healthy marriage.

For more information on the Office of Family Assistance visit

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/>.

For more information regarding these Funding Opportunity Announcements visit

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa>.

For more information on Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood visit

www.fatherhood.gov.

DID YOU KNOW? (Tribal Facts)

Arizona Executive Order & Tribal Consultation Policies

Former Governor Janet Napolitano issued Executive Order (EO) 2006-14, Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes, on September 14, 2006. The EO was developed in response to requests from leaders of Arizona's 22 Indian Tribes. The goal of the Executive Order is to have an official government-to-government relationship between the State and Arizona tribes that has been enhanced through the Tribal Summit process.

This order established the following requirements for all Executive Branch agencies:

- Develop and implement tribal consultation policies'

- Designate a member of their staff to assume responsibility for the agency's implementation of the tribal consultation policy and act as the principal point of contact for tribal issues
- Review their tribal consultation policies each year and submit an electronic report to the Governor and the Legislature to describe all actions taken

The compilation of Arizona tribal consultation policies can be found at the following link:
http://www.azahcccs.gov/tribal/Downloads/consultations/091808_TribalConsultationPolicies.pdf

To submit information for inclusion into this bulletin please send the content to me no later the 25th of each month. Thanks! *Beverly*